

Submitter: Allison Abraham
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1598
Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Allison Abraham, and I am a practicing physician. I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1598 because it strengthens Oregon's ability to protect public health through evidence-based preventive care, expanded vaccine access, and streamlined prescribing authority during public health needs.

As written, SB 1598 updates requirements for certain health benefit plans to cover preventive health services according to federal standards and immunizations recommended by the Oregon Public Health Officer. It also allows the Public Health Officer, or a designated physician, to issue standing orders for prescriptions addressing infectious or other significant public health threats.

From a clinical standpoint, preventive services are the backbone of modern medicine. When patients can access vaccines, screenings, and preventive therapies without administrative or financial barriers, we see fewer hospitalizations, fewer long-term complications, and lower overall health system costs. Aligning insurance coverage with federal preventive care standards helps ensure patients receive care that is consistent with evidence-based recommendations.

Equally important is the bill's recognition that public health threats evolve quickly. Infectious disease outbreaks and emerging health risks require rapid, coordinated responses. The ability for public health leadership to issue standing orders for medications and preventive interventions can reduce delays in treatment and improve population-level outcomes, particularly for vulnerable and underserved communities.

In clinical practice, delays in access to vaccines or preventive medications can have real consequences — including preventable illness, avoidable emergency department visits, and strain on hospital capacity. Policies that strengthen preventive care infrastructure directly support frontline clinicians and improve patient safety.

SB 1598 represents a practical, medically grounded approach to strengthening preventive health access while allowing flexibility for future public health needs. As a physician committed to evidence-based medicine and patient-centered care, I believe this legislation will help Oregon maintain a strong, responsive public health system.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support for SB 1598.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Allison Abraham, DO, FACP